

## Feasibility of a Universal Design Bathroom Sink & Vanity

Award Information

Agency:

Department of Agriculture

Branch

n/a

Amount:

\$195,000.00

Award Year:

2000

Program:

SBIR

Phase:

Phase II

Contract:

n/a

Agency Tracking Number:

41920

Solicitation Year:

n/a

Solicitation Topic Code:

n/a

Solicitation Number:

n/a

Small Business Information

Accessible Designs/Adjustable

94 Columbus Road, Athens, OH, 00000

Hubzone Owned:

N

Socially and Economically Disadvantaged:

N

Woman Owned:

N

Duns:

n/a

Principal Investigator:

Davis

Principal Investigator

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Business Contact:

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Research Institution:

n/a

Abstract

People with disabilities, the elderly, and those who are non-disabled desire the development of bathroom vanity and sink designs that incorporate universal design. Developers of federally

subsidized housing (HUD) and assisted living facilities have similar design needs for affordably meeting the needs of residents and accessibility laws. Phase I research found that conventional bathroom sink and vanity designs fail to meet the needs of disabled end-users. From their perspective, and the perspective of their tenants, property owners cite significant shortcomings with current designs. Current designs fail to provide -- counter space, accessible storage space, secure wall-mounted installations, and adequate design for wheelchair user anthropometrics. Phase I research determined the social and technical feasibility of vanity and sink designs that are equally usable by wheelchair users and others. To address these research findings, AD\*AS designed and prototyped four technical solutions. Three of the solutions use proprietary height-adjustable mechanisms; one solution is a fixed-height design. In the Phase II work plan, AD\*AS will: 1) conduct comprehensive technical evaluations of four prototypes, 2) conduct systematic consumer evaluation and testing, 3) perform business and market evaluations, and 4) integrate research findings into pre-production prototypes to offer a migration path from concept to commercial success (Phase III).

\* information listed above is at the time of submission.